

March 5, 2012

Town Council Report: February, 2012 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Zionsville Parks Golf Course

- February's gross operating profit was ~\$6,727. The course is not yet open, but we run an "Early Bird Special" on the various yearly passes as a way to get some beginning of the season cash flow. So all of that gross income reflects the sale of our various yearly passes (Seniors, Juniors, Family, etc). Our pass numbers and sales are pretty stable and closely compare to last year's. Which is also indicated by this month's receipts being within \$300 of Feb 2011's numbers.
- Course opening is projected as March 16th, weather permitting. The new carts, which have been purchased from past seasons of golf receipts, will be arriving before the end of March. They had been originally planned for arrival mid-March but the factory hit an unexpected sales/production snag. They will be providing and shipping (at their cost) a new fleet of loaner carts for our use until our purchased carts arrive.
- We have received, from the Clerk-Treasurers Office, the final 2011 fiscal information on the Golf Course. The net operating profit for the year was ~\$13,704.75. As has been discussed in 2011, there had been nearly \$11,000 in direct flood related damage costs to the pro shop. We have checked into a flood insurance policy but the Town's agent says it is not cost effective given the infrequency of that level of flooding. Additionally the flood delays in opening the course in the Spring and the cooler initial weather hurt the spring time play levels. Without several of these required repairs, etc, our golf staff feel the gross operating numbers would have been doubled to around the \$30,000 level (and that includes no estimate for the reduced play due to the cool rainy weather. On the plus side, in the most inclement year since the Town's ownership, the course still generated a net operating profit of nearly \$14,000.

Urban Forestry Grant Application awarded

- The Parks Department had prepared and submitted a request on a 50%-50% matching reimbursement grant for \$20,000 (so representing at least a \$40,000 improvement project for the Town in various arenas). The Street and Stormwater Department was also approached as some of this program's potentially eligible grant components also benefit some of their mission elements. They came enthusiastically onboard as well. We were just informed early in Feb that we have been awarded \$15,000 in grant moneys. It is not uncommon in some programs that awarded funds are less than the amount requested and such is frequently the case with this program. We were one of only 13 projects across the state which received funding (out of 35, effectively then, we were in about the top third). These funds will help support several types of activities with which both departments are already involved.

Other Highlighted Matters

- One of the three potential Eagle Scouts projects seems to be gaining some "legs" and is looking a very potential. This will utilize a much smaller grant that might normally not be the best fit, but because of the scout involvement gains more feasibility and joint benefit. It currently awaits approval on the Scout side of the equation
- In a concurrent timeline process, the Wayfinding/Safety signage fabrication is completing while the public safety side is finalizing entry and update efforts into the dispatch database so that their necessary information can be loaded within the public safety system. It is anticipated that the project could be complete by the end of March, although obviously weather and other factors could still impact that timeline.